

# BROOKINGS COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

**Tuesday, September 5, 2006**

The Brookings County Board of County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 5, 2006, with the following members present: Dennis Falken, Emil Klavetter, Donald Larson, Mary Negstad, and Deanna Santema.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Falken called the meeting to order.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairperson Falken declared the Consent Agenda approved with no objection from the board. The Consent Agenda consisted of the agenda for the September 5, 2006 Commission Meeting, and the minutes from the August 29, 2006 Commission Meeting.

Travel/Education: Joyce Dragseth to attend NCRAAO meeting in Sioux Falls on September 27, 2006; Mark Kratochvil to attend Meth training in Sioux Falls, on September 27, 2006; Krista Spence to attend Leadership Brookings 2006-2007; Rose Stee to attend FEU meeting in Howard on September 7, 2006; Laurie Tangen to attend meetings in Howard, Redfield, Pierre, and Spearfish in September 2006; Department Heads to attend the annual convention in Aberdeen September 18-20, 2006.

## **ROUTINE BUSINESS**

Zoning and Drainage Director, Robert Hill met with the board to discuss a drainage issue at Deer Creek in Aurora Township, a child welfare case requiring water quality testing at a trailer park in Brookings County, discussed ordinance updates at Zoning meeting scheduled for September 5, 2006, updated the board on PPM Energy ground breaking.

Emergency Management Director, Todd Struwe met with the board to discuss the Regional Concept of Homeland Security Grants and the county's representation at the meeting in Minnehaha County, he will also attend the annual Emergency Management meeting in Sioux Falls on September 18-20, 2006.

Director of Equalization, Joyce Dragseth met with the board to discuss the city-wide review completion, Amendment D, and a citizen approached her in regards to the value of a home near the Brookings Airport.

Deputy Auditor, Krista Spence presented the board with the Auditor's Report.

Election Supervisor, Stacy Steffensen met with the board to discuss unanticipated supply needs for the upcoming November general election.

Be it noted, the salaries and personnel changes for the month of August 2006 are as follows: Longevity Increase: Jeff Anderson \$75.00; Joyce Caugherty \$40.00; Dan Hougland \$60.00; Irene Pierce \$45.00; Lionel Torgrude \$100.00; Candace Stamp \$25.00. Annual Review/Step: Jeff Anderson from \$15.43 to \$15.70; Joyce Caugherty from \$12.42 to \$12.64; Dan Hougland from \$16.59 to \$16.88; Gary Norgaard from \$14.87 to \$15.13; Irene Pierce from \$13.59 to \$13.86; Kristin Trana from \$15.10 to \$15.40; Benjamin Quam from \$12.56 to \$12.81. Jessica Nustad, Resignation.

Commission \$16,843.04; Elections \$1,353.05; Auditor's Office \$8,282.39; Treasurer's Office \$12,983.72; States Attorney's Office \$21,137.07; Custodial Buildings \$3,082.87; Director of Equalization \$19,189.25; Register of Deeds \$8,465.82; Veteran's Service Officer \$3417.00; Sheriff's Office \$36,938.99; County Jail \$32,792.11; Contract Law Enforcement \$6,863.71; Emergency Management \$6,139.59; Drainage \$1,340.09;

Highway \$51,912.33; Welfare \$3,342.08; Community Health Nurses \$2,565.56; Women, Infants, & Children \$2,374.76; County Extension \$4,806.40; Weed Control \$15,337.92; Planning & Zoning \$4,420.26.

Be it noted, Chairperson Falken signed claims for the following—AFLAC, insurance \$2,934.66; AFLAC Flex-One \$90.00; Breit Law Office, garnishment \$335.48; Office of Child Support Enforcement, child support \$744.60; Delta Dental, insurance \$2,606.34; Flex One, unreimbursed medical \$1,497.00; Local Teamsters, union dues \$952.00; SDRS, retirement \$30,921.87; SDRS Supplemental, retirement \$4,821.66; EFTPS \$61,399.93; Wellmark Blue Cross, insurance \$45,658.87; Fort Dearborn Life, life insurance \$570.70.

Motion by Negstad, seconded by Klavetter to approve an Automatic Supplement to the Emergency Management Department in the amount of \$104,755.30 for program funding for the the 2005 DOJ/OJP Equipment Grant. Roll Call Vote: Larson “Aye”, Negstad “Aye”, Santema “Aye”, Klavetter “Aye”, Falken “Aye.” Motion Carried.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

Motion by Larson, seconded by Negstad to approve Resolution #06-40, a resolution to rescind the prohibition of open burning enacted on July 18, 2006. Roll Call Vote: Negstad “Aye”, Santema “Aye”, Klavetter “Aye”, Larson “Aye”, Falken “Aye.” Motion Carried.

**Resolution #06-40  
A Resolution to Rescind the Burn Ban enacted July 18, 2006.**

WHEREAS, due to extreme drought conditions in Brookings County, the Brookings County Commission enacted a resolution declaring a fire danger emergency in Brookings County and prohibiting open burning as defined by Brookings County Ordinance 2001-02;

WHEREAS, the rural fire departments and law enforcement have observed that conditions in Brookings County have improved due to recent rainfall;

WHEREAS, Resolution #06-32 enacting the fire danger emergency remains in place until rescinded by the Brookings County Board of Commissioners;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brookings County Commission rescinds the declaration of a fire danger emergency and open burning ban.

Passed and approved this \_\_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

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Dennis Falken,  
Chairperson, Brookings County  
Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Janet K. Willmott,  
Brookings County Auditor

Chairperson Falken opened the Public Hearing at 9:00a.m. and called for comments from both proponents and opponents. Chairperson Falken closed the public hearing. Following the public hearing, a motion was made by Klavetter, seconded by Santema to approve Resolution #06-41, adopting the 2007 Provisional Budget for Brookings County, South Dakota. Roll Call Vote: Santema “Aye”, Klavetter “Aye”, Larson “Aye”, Negstad “Aye”, Falken “Aye.” Motion Carried.

Motion by Santema, seconded by Negstad to approve the Certification of Adoption for Local Emergency Operations Plan of Brooking County. Roll Call Vote: Klavetter "Aye", Larson "Aye", Negstad "Aye", Santema "Aye", Falken "Aye." Motion Carried.

Motion by Klavetter, seconded by Negstad, to approve petition 06-01 to the County Commission to recalculate taxes for someone not meeting the deadline for the elderly and disabled tax freeze application. Roll Call Vote: Larson "Aye", Negstad "Aye" Santema "Aye", Klavetter "Aye", Falken "Aye." Motion Carried.

Motion by Negstad, seconded by Klavetter, to approve and authorize Chairperson Falken to sign Resolution # 06-42; A Resolution opposing Initiated Measure #8: A measure initiated to repeal the tax on the gross receipts of wireless communication companies. Roll Call Vote: Negstad "Aye," Santema "Aye," Klavetter "Aye," Larson "Aye", Falken "Aye." Motion Carried.

**Resolution #06-42**  
**Opposing Initiated Measure #8**

A measure initiated to repeal the tax on the gross receipts of wireless communication companies.

WHEREAS, in 2003, South Dakota instituted a tax on the gross receipts of wireless communications companies; and,

WHEREAS, county governments across the state receive forty (40) percent of the total revenue of this tax; and,

WHEREAS, Brookings County receives \$122,323.44 from this revenue source; and,

WHEREAS, South Dakota voters will be asked to repeal this tax via Initiated Measure 8 in this November's election; and,

WHEREAS, if Initiated Measure 8 is passed by South Dakota voters, Brookings County would be forced to consider significant cuts in county services or propose an opt out of the property tax freeze.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brookings County Commission does hereby offer its official opposition to Initiated Measure 8; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Brookings County Commission asks all voters in Brookings County to vote No on Initiated Measure 8.

Adopted this 5th day of September, 2006.

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Dennis Falken, Chairperson  
Brookings County Commission

ATTEST:

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Janet Willmott, Auditor  
Brookings County

Motion by Klavetter, seconded by Larson, to approve and authorize Chairperson Falken to sign Resolution #06-43; A Resolution opposing Amendment D: A Constitutional Amendment on the general election ballot which would alter the method of assessing valuation of property for the purpose of taxation. Roll Call Vote: Santema "Aye," Klavetter "Aye," Larson "Aye", Negstad "Aye", Falken "Aye." Motion Carried.

**Resolution #06-43**  
**Opposing Amendment D**

A Constitutional Amendment on the general election ballot which would alter the method of assessing valuation of property for the purpose of taxation.

**Whereas:** Amendment D places a tax system in the constitution that will cause a shift of property taxes so people most recently purchasing property will pay a disproportional amount of taxes; and

**Whereas:** Those most harmed by this tax shift will be senior, young families, first time home buyers and new businesses; and

**Whereas:** Amendment D results in two similar homes paying significantly dissimilar tax bills which will create inequities within neighborhoods; and

**Whereas:** The state has five programs in place to help the elderly and disabled to pay property taxes; and

**Whereas:** Amendment D will hurt farm families that seek to consolidate farm land and achieve needed economic scales of efficiency by increasing the taxes on the newly purchased land; and

**Whereas:** Amendment D will require a long list of legislative remedies before it can be functional, many of which will require a 2/3rds vote of the legislature and none of which can be guaranteed to pass; and

**Whereas:** Amendment D will cost schools an estimated \$15 million by reducing the assessed valuations to 2003 and limiting increases to those valuations; and

**Whereas:** South Dakota voters have rejected every other proposed experimental change in the property tax system, defeating 5 other ill-advised restructuring attempts;

**Therefore be it resolved by the Brookings County Board of Commissioners** that Amendment D is not in the best interests of the members of this organization or the citizens of South Dakota and that it should be defeated in the November 2006 election.

**Be it Further Resolved** that the Brookings County Board of Commissioners will lend any an all appropriate support to the efforts of the coalition urging voters to Vote No on D including officially announcing this resolution, joining the coalition, helping communicate the messages of the coalition and when possible assisting with raising funds.

Adopted this 5th day of September, 2006.

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Dennis Falken, Chairperson  
Brookings County Commission

ATTEST:

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Janet Willmott, Auditor  
Brookings County

Commission Assistant/Human Resources Director, Stephanie Vogel met with board to discuss Personnel Matters, NACo Prescription Drug Card use, and correspondence received from the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners entitled "2006 Proposed Resolutions" for the upcoming Annual Convention September 18-20, 2006.

**COMMISSIONER'S OPEN DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Larson reported on the SDSU Mid-Continent Conference Announcement.

Commissioner Negstad reported on the SDSU Mid-Continent Conference Announcement, and Bird Flu Pandemic Meeting.

Commissioner Santema reported on the SDSU Mid-Continent Conference Announcement.

Commissioner Klavetter reported on the SDSU Mid-Continent Conference Announcement, and discussed future space needs.

Commissioner Falken reported on the County Rangeland Fire Protection Agreement, and the PUC public hearing in White.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson Falken declared the meeting adjourned until 8:30am Tuesday, September 12, 2006.

It is the policy of Brookings County, South Dakota, not to discriminate against the Handicapped in Employment or the Provision of Service. The County of Brookings is responsive to requests for communication aids and the need to provide appropriate access, and will provide alternative formats and accessible locations consistent with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

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Krista Spence  
Deputy Auditor  
Brookings County Auditor’s Office